

**Dear Ms. Hershkowitz:**

Your January 15, 2016, email to President Obama regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site was forwarded to this office for response. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency manages the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. It is important to all of us at the EPA that those who live in the areas around the West Lake Landfill know and understand the science-based facts regarding the contamination and what current risks the wastes may pose.

In addition to the numerous studies the EPA has conducted, we continue to work with top experts from the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In April 2015, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a part of HHS, finalized its health consultation to determine if radiological contamination at the West Lake Landfill might harm human health. That report concluded that there is no immediate off-site health risk to the surrounding community posed by the radiological wastes contained within the West Lake Landfill.

I know that the smoldering event in the Bridgeton Landfill worries many in the community. Let me reassure you that there is no data to indicate the smoldering is rapidly moving toward the radiological material in the adjacent West Lake Landfill. On December xx, 2015, EPA Region 7 announced its decision to proceed with the installation of a physical isolation barrier for the West Lake Landfill Superfund. The decision also called for the installation of additional engineering controls, such as cooling loops, to prevent potential impacts that could result if a subsurface smoldering event (SSE) were to come into contact with the radioactive materials contained in the West Lake Landfill. The installation of a physical isolation barrier, and other engineering controls, will proceed as EPA continues to evaluate the remedy decision for the West Lake Landfill Site.

My office remains focused on proposing a final remedy decision for the West Lake Landfill by the end of 2016. That proposal will be available for public review and comment. The final remedy will be designed to ensure that on a long-term basis human health and the environment remain protected from radiological contaminants.

At the EPA, your safety continues to be our top priority. There is much work that continues at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. To stay informed about the latest activities, please visit: [http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill).